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Please DEFEAT the proposed rule change allowing further consolidation of broadcast media ownership. We need a diversity of media owners to ensure A free exchange of ideas. The media cannot perform its valuable watchdog role over corporations if all major media are owned by large corporations.

In Denver, our 40 radio stations are now overwhelmingly concentrated among 3-4 mega-owners. As a result, the amount of news programming has plummeted. Instead, our airwaves are filled with sports talk shows and music with no news coverage. The quality of TV news coverage also suffers as large corporations push for programming that just bolsters profits with little regard for the public interest. Disney owner Michael Eisner wanted to drop Nightline because he thought ABC could make more money with David Letterman. This is CONTRARY to the PUBLIC INTEREST -- adding a third late night talk host and eliminating a thoughtful news program.

In determining diversity, you must look at the MOST POWERFUL and influential outlets. The sheer number of web sites and cable channels is not meaningful as the minor outlets serve a tiny fraction of the total public.

The lack of coverage of this proposed rule change by the major networks is a blatant example of conflict of interest. I feel there IS ALREADY TOO MUCH CONCENTRATION OF MEDIA OWNERSHIP after the 1996 deregulation. Your decisions must be ruled by the PUBLIC INTEREST -- not what will benefit a handful of corporations.

It is imperative to our DEMOCRACY that further consolidation NOT OCCUR.

Please withdraw this ill-considered assault on the free flow of ideas. A survey by the Consumer Federation of America found that TWO-THIRDS of Americans think media corporations are too large and provide too little coverage of local issues and public policy issues.

Media diversity as practiced for the past 60 years in the US has served our republic well. We need to continue to support DIVERSITY in the media by PREVENTING further concentration in a few powerful hands. Please do not undermine our democracy with this rule change. Thank you.

Peggy\broadcast rule - FCC